

**STATEMENT OF SENATOR JON KYL  
CHAIRMAN  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM, TECHNOLOGY, AND HOMELAND  
SECURITY  
SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

**“TERRORISM AND THE EMP THREAT TO HOMELAND SECURITY@**

**8 MARCH 2005**

**Overview**

Today, the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology, and Homeland Security will examine the threat and impact of an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack on the American homeland. An attack using an EMP – a phenomenon created by the detonation of a nuclear weapon – could devastate this country. The public and the Congress need to pay more attention to this danger.

Earlier this year, CIA Director Porter Goss gave chilling testimony about missing nuclear material from storage sites in Russia that may have found its way into terrorists’ hands. Moreover, FBI Director Mueller confirmed new intelligence that suggest that Al Qaeda is trying to acquire and use weapons of mass destruction in some form against us.

Also, the 9/11 Commission report stated that our biggest failure was one of imagination. No one imagined that terrorists would do what they did on September 11. I want to explore new and imaginative possibilities of terrorist plots and methods. And that’s why we are here today – to examine a possibility that poses a grave threat and a crippling impact to our way of life.

Last year, the EMP Commission found that EMP was one of a small number of threats that could hold our society at risk of catastrophic consequences. The effects of an EMP could potentially shock, damage, or even destroy electrical systems that fall within the striking range of a nuclear detonation. And because the United States is heavily dependent on electrical systems to provide basic services, an EMP attack has the potential to have a cascading effect on all aspects of American society.

The Commission's report found that our infrastructure – such as electrical power, telecommunications, energy, financial, transportation, emergency services, water purification and delivery, and food refrigeration – were all vulnerable to EMP attack. And in the event of an EMP attack, those infrastructures would be rendered unusable, thus inflicting widespread disruption or failure on a national scale. The death toll from such an attack is almost unthinkable. Unfortunately, the House Armed Services Committee hearing on the Commission Report occurred on the date of the release of the 9/11 Commission Report. As a result, the hearing – and the EMP Report – received virtually no coverage.

I would like to review those finding and understand the current risk we face as well as the actions we may need to take to prepare for an EMP attack.

### **Witnesses**

The Subcommittee will hear from three highly qualified witnesses.

#### **Dr. Lowell L. Wood, Jr.**

Dr. Lowell L. Wood, Jr. is a Commissioner of the National Commission to Assess the EMP Threat to the United States; a member of the Technical Advisory Group of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; a member of the Undersea Warfare Experts Group of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Armed Services; a member of the U.S. Nuclear Strategy Forum; a Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University; and an officer and member of the Board of Directors of the Fannie and John Hertz Foundation. He is also a member of the Laboratory Director's Technical Staff, University of California Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where he has held numerous positions since 1972. He has received numerous awards and prizes for his work, and is the author of several hundred publications.

#### **Dr. Peter Pry**

Dr. Peter Vincent Pry was one of the CIA's chief experts on Soviet plans for EMP attack. During the Cold War, he developed much of what the U.S. government knows about Soviet planning for nuclear war; and, in the post-Cold War period, his work has been central to the U.S. government's

understanding of evolving Russian threat perceptions and military doctrine. He is the Director of the United States Nuclear Strategy Forum, a non-profit foundation established to advise Congress on the future threat environment and on the role of nuclear weapons in U.S. national security policy, and recently served on the EMP Commission staff, where he was the chief analyst on foreign views of EMP attack. Dr. Pry holds two Ph.D.s, one in history, and the other in international relations. He has authored several books on national security and military issues.

**Dr. Peter Fonash, DHS, National Communications, Deputy Manager (Acting)**

Dr. Peter M. Fonash is the Acting Deputy Manager, National Communications and has been a member of the Senior Executive Service since 1998. He has served in both technical and policy positions in the Federal government. Dr. Fonash earned three degrees from the University of Pennsylvania: a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering, a Masters of Science, and a Master of Business Administration (Wharton School). He also holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree from George Mason University, School of Information Technology and Engineering. His 24 years in federal services were preceded by four years in private industry.

**Conclusion**

We have a distinguished panel of witnesses before us today, but I would also like to recognize the EMP Commission members who unfortunately could not be with us today. I recognize their significant contributions to help us better understand the EMP threat and what we can do about it. I would also like to recognize Senator Feinstein who also could not be with us today. I would like to thank her for all of her work and contributions as well as the great working relationship we have on this Subcommittee.

Today, I would like to look into the EMP Threat to better understand the magnitude of this threat to our civilian infrastructure, and what we may need to do to ensure we are prepared to protect our citizens, our economy, and if necessary, the means to reconstruct our nation's infrastructure.